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different times, conditions, industries, and countries, can hardly be regarded as a mere theory or creation.

If this principle, that the price of labor and the extent of the market are determined by the consuming power or standard of living of the masses is understood and accepted, the importance of a reform measure which tends to elevate this standard will readily be felt.

Increased leisure for the working classes Mr. Gunton regards as the most effective means.

In support of his proposition for an eight-hour system—the vital question of the book—he gives much convincing evidence of the good effect of reducing working hours in factories in England, and its recognition by leading statesmen, showing that, as a result of this policy, wages have risen and prices fallen without in the least injuring the profits of the capitalist, while as regards the social progress of the people, sufficient statistical evidence is given that this reform has been followed “by the increased intelligence of the masses and the decrease in pauperism and crime.”

A chapter in which the industrial progress of England and the United States are compared, and in which is made the statement, sustained by many telling facts, “that during the last 35 years the laboring classes in this country have actually made less progress in social well being than those of monarchical England,” gives much food for thought.

II.

THE NEW ASTRONOMY.

DR. LANGLEY has placed the general reading public under obligation to him for the exceeding bright and able treatise * just issued in beautiful form by the Ticknors. The contents of this readable book comprise chapters on the Sun's Spots, the Surroundings and the Energy of the Sun, the Planets and the Moon, Meteors, Comets, and the Stars, and a very complete index to the whole. The work is addressed, not to the professional astronomer, but to that educated public on whose support he is so often dependent for the means of extending the boundaries of knowledge. In this connection the author makes a plea for the New Astronomy, which he intimates, as compared with the Old Astronomy, is almost left unaided, while munificent endowments, private and public, are at the service of the latter. Perhaps a little more explanation on this point would have been acceptable to the general reader, who may be assumed to be very much in the dark as to how he may aid and countenance the study of any particular branch of astronomy, and as to the schools which make a specialty of the New Astronomy or the science of Celestial Physics. If by buying and reading such books as this one of Professor Langley encouragement can be given to investigations which have for their object the solution of problems connected with the structure of the stars and planets, then we should, on this ground alone, hope that such books will command a very large sale, and if in any other way the pursuit can be aided the public should be advised. It is certainly one of the most fascinating subjects on which the ingenuity and industry of the human mind can be engaged. Vast strides have evidently been made within the compass of the present generation towards the answering of questions which everybody feels closely concern our race; great improvements

* “The New Astronomy.” By Samuel Pierpont Langley, Ph.D., LL.D., Director of the Allegheny Observatory, Member National Academy, Fellow Royal Astronomical Society, etc. Ticknor & Company.

have been made in astronomical instruments, and who shall say that improvements may not still be made? It is somewhat tantalizing to be told that the stars are unquestionably like us—having the same material elements as are contained in our own bodies and in our own Earth, and yet to be in ignorance as to whether sentient and rational beings may inhabit them, and, if so, whether it be possible for us, with greater knowledge, to hold communication with them.

Professor Langley has not in this book cleared up the mystery of the sun's spots or of the sources of solar heat. His theory with regard to the latter is well known and is admirably stated and defended, namely, that the heat given out by the sun is caused by the gradual shrinkage or settlement of its gaseous substances toward its centre. A contraction of three hundred feet a year would, he states, be more than enough to cause it to give forth all the immense flow of heat we now see, and yet would make so slight a difference in the apparent size of the sun that it could scarcely be noticeable through the most powerful telescope. If this shrinkage is going on at the rate and for the purpose here stated, it is satisfactory to be assured that it will take from five to ten millions of years for it to become solid and cold; for in that case all life on the earth must soon cease to be. Whether there be any way by which the vast quantities of heat radiating in all directions from the sun may be returned to it, is an admittedly open question, but Professor Langley quotes Professor Young on this point to the effect that all analogies in nature, so far, seem to point to the law of a beginning and an end, and that "the present order of things seems to be bounded both in the past and in the future by terminal catastrophes which are veiled in clouds as yet inscrutable." Our author makes all allowance for the falling in of meteors into the sun as a probable supply of heat, but argues that the main origin of the heat is the contraction of the sun's substance, and that, from all data obtainable, the sun's life is covered by about thirty millions of years, of which four or five millions, or possibly as many as ten millions, may yet be in the future, and then "the end will come."

III.

BOOKS ON COLORADO.

COLORADO is so youthful a member of the happy and United family of States glorying in the Stars and Stripes, and is so closely connected in the thought of our people with interests and amusements anything but sedentary, that the appearance of books with the imprint of a Denver publishing house* upon them naturally causes a little flutter of surprise. And yet when one counts the years and reflects upon the wonders of Western enterprise, the sober second thought comes in that, after all, this is just what might be expected. So much light and heat are radiating from these Eastern centres that, if some of it does not come back to us in the shape of printed books, we may begin to fear that our condition of intellectual warmth and energy is due, as in the case of the sun, to a process of contraction only, and may some day cool off with more or less of a catastrophe to mark the end. Be this as it may, we welcome all indications from our sister cities of the Great West of the formation and growth, within and around them, of literary tastes and habits. The West is a great market for books, and is destined no doubt, to be a great producer, though at present, and for many years to come the tendency of life in a State like Colorado must naturally be somewhat opposed to the formation of any distinctively literary or author-producing class.

*"Mountain Trails and Parks in Colorado." By L. B. France. Chain, Hardy & Co.